Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for withdrawing small amounts of body fluid comprising:

a drive unit having a holder, wherein the holder is moved from a first position into a second position when the drive unit is activated;

a disposable lancing unit which has a holding area that is removably positioned in the holder;

an elongate capillary structure, wherein a proximal end of the capillary structure comprises at least one capillary channel for transporting body fluid connected to the holding area;

a distal end of the capillary structure ~~being~~ defining a tip which is suitable for piercing skin, wherein the distal end of the capillary structure is located outside the skin when the holder is arranged in the first position and inserted into the skin up to a puncture depth in the second position;

wherein the at least one capillary channel is open to the outside in an area which comprises at least a part of the longitudinal extension of the capillary structure extending beyond the distal end; and

wherein the drive unit moves the lancing device such that after the lancing device reaches the second position, the lancing device is moved back into a collecting position, such that in the collecting position a section of the capillary structure located in the skin is shorter than the section of the capillary structure when the lancing device is in the second position.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the entire length of the capillary structure from the proximal to the distal end is open to the outside.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the holding area has a detection zone for detecting at least one ~~analytes~~ analyte, the detection zone being arranged such that ~~it~~ the detection zone can take up body fluid from the capillary structure.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the drive unit moves the lancing unit in such a manner that ~~it~~ the lancing unit remains in the second position for a time interval and subsequently, the lancing unit is moved into a position in which the distal end of the capillary structure is outside the skin.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the capillary structure and holding area are integrally connected together.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) ~~System~~ The system as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 in which the area of the capillary structure that is open to the outside has a channel shape.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20 wherein the channel-shaped area has an essentially V-shaped cross-section.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the length of the capillary structure is in the range from 0.3 to 3 mm and the cross-section of the capillary structure is in the range from 0.03 to 0.8 mm.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of ~~claim 1~~ claim 13 wherein the holding area and the capillary structure are made of silicon.

24. (New) A system for withdrawing body fluid, comprising:

a lancing unit configured to couple to a drive unit, the lancing unit including

a detection zone configured to analyze the body fluid, and

a capillary structure having a lancing tip configured to cut an incision in skin, the lancing tip defining a capillary groove for drawing the body fluid from the incision to the detection zone via capillary action, wherein the capillary groove opens longitudinally along the outside of the lancing tip to permit collection of the body fluid along the length of the lancing tip.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, further comprising:

the drive unit, wherein the drive unit is coupled to the lancing unit.

26. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein:

the lancing unit includes a holding area in which a portion of the capillary structure is arranged;

the holding area has a distal end from where the lancing tip extends and a top surface; and

the capillary groove opens along the top surface of the holding area.

27. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein:

the lancing unit includes a plate capping the holding area;

the plate covers a portion of the capillary groove; and

the plate defines a window over the detection zone.

28. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the capillary structure includes a pair of needles joined together.

29. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the capillary structure includes a stranded wire with the capillary groove formed between adjacent wires.

30. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the capillary structure includes a solid needle with the capillary groove defined therein.

31. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the detection zone includes an optical detector for analyzing the body fluid.

32. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the detection zone includes an electrochemical detector for analyzing the body fluid.

33. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein:
the lancing tip has a distal end that initially contacts the skin during lancing; and
the capillary groove further opens at the distal end of the lancing tip.